

*Library*

18 OCT 57

BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.

---



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1956.

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Assistant School Medical Officer.

19th September, 1957.



Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1956.

According to the Registrar General's mid-year estimate there was again a slight increase of 90 in the population of the Urban District compared with the previous year.

There were 88 deaths from all causes, compared with 86 in the previous year, but this slight increase is offset by the estimated increase in the population of the Urban district.

There was an increase in the number of cases of measles and whooping cough and there were 4 cases of paralytic poliomyelitis in the earlier part of the year. It is to be hoped that the new poliomyelitis vaccine which is now available to a limited number of children will eventually reduce the incidence of this serious disease.

Local Industries. - These are mainly concerned with agriculture, but the factory operated by Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories Limited, in Harnire Road for the production of Penicillin, now affords employment for a large number of persons resident in the Urban and Rural Districts. The total number of persons employed at this factory at the end of the year was approximately 594 persons.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. - Lack of rainfall during the early months of the year caused the yield from the springs to fall to a low level, and from June to mid-July it was found necessary to supply additional areas of the town from the Tees Valley Water Board's supply. Exceptionally heavy rainfall occurred in late July and August increasing the spring yield which was maintained to the end of the year.

The lack of pressure in the town's system of supply makes it necessary to take a supply from the Tees Valley Water Board throughout the year for the higher areas of the town.

Two samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination. Both were satisfactory in Class I.

The constantly increasing demand for water for new housing development and the improvement in the sanitary condition of houses and other premises in the town yearly extends the district affected by lack of pressure, and during droughty periods there is an increasing need for the Tees Valley Water Board supply to larger areas of the town.

It is advisable that the Council should endeavour to conclude their negotiations with the Tees Valley Water Board before the supply position becomes more acute.

Refuse Tip. - As tipping proceeds, the face of the tipping area is moving further from the highway. The erection of wire netting fences has to a great extent prevented paper and other matter being blown on to adjoining land to the east.

As the tip extends westwards, the filled area is levelled, soiled and reseeded and let annually as meadow or for grazing. A further small area has been levelled and reseeded during the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. - It has been agreed in principle to accept soil drainage into the town's sewage and sewage disposal works from areas outside the U.D.C. boundary from the village of Startforth lying within the area of the Startforth R.D.C. and from houses in Darlington Road and the new Secondary Modern School in Green Lane lying within the area of the Barnard Castle R.D.C.

The additional flow from these areas together with the increased flow from the town due to increased population will no doubt necessitate alterations and additions at the Sewage Disposal Works, and the Council have instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare a report on the matter.

Closet Accommodation. - At the end of the year ten properties had dry closets, all the rest were provided with closets on the water carriage system.

Two pail privies serving properties subject to Demolition Orders were taken off the register of ~~properties~~ with dry closets during the year.

Housing. - Official representation was made for 53 houses in October, 1956.

The Council made application for 36 houses in 5 Clearance Areas in the Bridgegate Area and 3 houses in Foundry Yard, Queen Street to be subject to Compulsory Purchase Orders and 14 houses and a lock-up shop in 4 Clearance Areas to be subject to two Clearance Orders.

The Council's statutory return covering five years from 1st August, 1955 required under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, is as follows with a column added showing progress to date:-

	Official Return August 1955	Amended Position 31/12/56.
Estimate of number of houses in the area suitable for action under Sections 25 and 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.	84.	
Number already in Clearance Areas	10.	10.
Number in proposed Clearance Areas	62.	53.
Number proposed to be subject to Demolition Orders	12.	
Number subject to Demolition Orders etc.		6.

Formal Action. -

(i)	No. of houses demolished during year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action.	NIL.
(ii)	No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action.	4.
(iii)	No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses, demolition of which temporarily postponed	12.

Informal Action. -

(i)	No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above	2
-----	---	---

Reconditioning and Repair. -

No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

(i)	As a result of informal action	18.
(ii)	By owners as a result of statutory notice	1.
(iii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	NIL

Improvement Grants - Housing Act, 1949. -

(i)	Applications submitted to Local Authority	9.
(ii)	Applications rejected by Local Authority	NIL.
(iii)	Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	21.

New Dwellings. - 38 houses were built by the North Eastern Housing Association for the Council.

The J. I. Dawson Trustees formed themselves into a Housing Association and built 4 Bungalows in respect of which Exchequer Contributions under the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946 have been approved for payment by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

3 Police houses and 14 Private dwellings were completed during the year.



Future development by the Council. - Two houses and sixteen flats which will complete the development on the Green Lane Site are in course of erection.

Tenders for building 3 houses on a site on The Bank, formerly the site of houses in a Clearance Order made in 1938, were received and the successful builder was awaiting Ministry confirmation of his tender.

Plans to provide a flat with a maisonette above on the site of a house in Thorngate also in a 1938 Clearance Order were in an advanced state of preparation and ready for tendering.

The development of Thorngate Wynd and Bridgegate which will depend for its successful outcome on the Council's Slum Clearance proposals in the area, was in an advanced state of planning, with plans drawn to meet the needs of the Ministry of Transport and the Town and Country Planning Committee.

The number of applicants on the Council's housing list at the end of the year was 140 compared with a figure of 144 at the end of 1955.

Provision of Houses by Local Authority

	Situation	Bungalow and 1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms	3 Bedrooms	4 Bedrooms	Total
Pre 1939	Dunelm Square Barnard Castle U.D.C.	4	13	6	2	25 *
	Dunelm Square North Eastern Housing Assoc.	10	-	-	-	-
	Dawson Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	22	14	8	44
	Total Pre. 1939	14	35	20	10	69
Post 1939	Victoria Road (Key Workers) Barnard Castle U.D.C.	-	-	12	-	12
	Zetland Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	20	28	6	54
	Montalbo Road Estate North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8	-	82	12	102
	Zetland Road Extension North Eastern Housing Assoc. {	6 Flats	6 Flats			
			14	13	-	39
	Green Lane Site	-	68	78	12	158
	Total Post 1939	14	108	213	30	365
	GRAND TOTAL	28	143	233	40	434
In course of Erection						
	Green Lane 6th Contract North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8 Flats	8 Flats	2		

\* Comprises 7 houses and 18 flats.

Confirmed Clearance Areas.

No. of Clearance Area	Date area confirmed	No. of Houses in Area	No. of Occupiers	No. of Houses in Occupation 31/12/56	No. Demolished 31/12/56	No. Vacant 31/12/56
1 to 6	27/8/35	36	46	NIL	36	NIL
8	-do-	5	6	NIL	4	1
9	-do-	2	2	NIL	2	NIL
1 to 9		43	54	NIL	42	1
10	12/3/38	2	2	1	NIL	1
11	-do-	2	3	NIL	2	NIL
12	-do-	3	3	NIL	3	NIL
13	-do-	3	3	NIL	2	1
14	-do-	7	10	NIL	7	NIL
15	-do-	5	5	1	3	1
16	-do-	5	12	NIL	4	1
17	-do-	7	7	NIL	7	NIL
18	-do-	2	2	NIL	2	NIL
19	-do-	13	18	2	11	NIL
20	-do-	3	3	NIL	3	NIL
21	-do-	2	2	NIL	1	1
22	-do-	7	7	NIL	7	NIL
10 to 22		61	77	4	52	5
GRAND TOTAL		104	131	4	94	6

The position is not materially changed from the end of 1955. One house has been vacated during the year and it is expected this will be demolished and the site used for redevelopment in 1957.

Factories and Workshops - Factories Act, 1937 and 1948 - Part I.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	10	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	54	16	2
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	5	17	1
TOTAL ...	79	43	4

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork.

The number of outworkers remains at six. All the premises have been inspected and the conditions found were satisfactory.

Tents and Caravans.

Two licences to station individual trailer caravans were issued during the year.

There are two camping grounds in the area. Field O.S. No. 2 near the Red Well Inn, Harmire Road, has a yearly licence to station not more than 20 caravans and tents at one time.

The camping ground on Field O.S. No. 58 near Prospect Place is not restricted.

Both these camping grounds are far from ideal in layout and management.

## Rodent Control. -

The Rodent Operator is employed part-time on rodent control and part-time as a general labourer in the Surveyor's Department. The Council's sewers and refuse tip were treated twice during the year and the sewage works and two of the Council's business premises were also treated, one of the business premises being treated twice. The only large infestation met with during the year was at the Council's refuse tip.

## Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

### Ice Cream.

No ice cream is manufactured in the town.

Thirty four premises are licensed for the retail sale of ice cream. Most of the ice cream sold is wrapped at the place of manufacture.

### Milk.

Eight retailers operate within the area. One retailer who sold undesignated milk died during the year and the person taking over the business now distributes designated milk.

At the end of the year seven retailers distribute Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk and one sells Sterilised Milk.

### Slaughterhouses.

Another slaughterhouse was licensed during the year. This brings the slaughterhouses in use to four.

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Slaughterhouse, Birch Road.           | Mr. F. A. Youngs.  |
| 2. Slaughterhouse, rear of 46, The Bank. | Mr. R. C. Jackson. |
| 3. Slaughterhouse, Vere Road.            | Mr. W. H. Foster.  |
| 4. Slaughterhouse, rear of 54, Galgate.  | Mr. W. Peat.       |

### Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No notifications of cases of food poisoning were received during the year.

### Public Health Meat Regulations.

The type of animals slaughtered in the area is of a very high standard and the general freedom from disease is indicated in the following table. No cases of Cysticercosis were found.



Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in year  
ending 31st December, 1956.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	763	42	76	2,643	1,027	NIL
Number inspected	763	42	75	2,481	1,026	NIL
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	3	2	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	139	11	3	13	78	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	24.77	26.19	4.00	0.64	7.79	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcase condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	3	-	-	9	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.65	7.14	-	-	0.87	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	559
Population (Registrar General's Estimated figure - mid-year 1956)	5,030
Number of inhabited houses	1,649
Rateable Value	£ 52,115
Sum represented by a penny rate (Financial Year Ended 31/3/56)	£114:10:10.

I am indebted to the Curator of the Bowes Museum, Mr. Thomas Wake, for permission to include the following table.

Table showing RAINFALL in inches in 1956,  
compiled from the Bowes Museum

Observation Station:	Bowes Museum.
Observer:	Thomas Wake, Curator and Secretary for the Trustees of the Bowes Museum.
Height of Gauge above Sea Level:	550 feet.



<u>1956.</u>	<u>Ins.</u>
January	3.56
February	2.38
March	1.44
April	.97
May	.67
June	2.63
July	3.44
August	7.28
September	3.67
October	1.66
November	.95
December	4.49
	<u>33.14</u>
Average	
5 years. 1952 - 1956	28.15 ins. Year
	33.14 1956
	22.43 1955
	37.45 1954
	24.67 1953
	23.09 1952

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate } Illegitimate }	85 { 83 2	50 1	33 1

Crude Birth Rate 16.9 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted Rate 16.7 " " " "

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales 15.7 per 1,000 home population.

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate } Illegitimate }	3 { 3 -	3 -	- -

Still Birth Rate - per 1,000 home population - 0.59.

Still Birth Rate for previous year - 0.81.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Deaths</u>	88	44	44

Crude Death Rate - 17.5 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted Rate - 9.1 " " " "

For England and Wales - 11.7 " " "

Deaths of Infants Under One Year.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	1	5
Legitimate	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-

Deaths of Infants Under Four weeks of age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	-	1
Legitimate	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year.

All Infants (per 1,000 live-births) - 70.

### Causes of Death

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Cancer (all types)	4	11	15
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	12	16
Coronary disease, angine	5	4	9
Hypertension with heart disease	3	-	3
Other heart disease	15	8	23
Other circulatory disease	5	1	6
Pneumonia	-	1	1
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	2
Congenital malformations	-	3	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	3	4
All other accidents	2	1	3
	<u>44</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>88</u>

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

157 cases of infectious diseases (not including Tuberculosis or Food Poisoning) were notified during the year. The greater proportion of these were again cases of measles but there were also 44 cases of whooping cough (compared with 3 in the previous year), and 4 cases of paralytic poliomyelitis.

The incidence of scarlet fever remained low (2 cases compared with 1 in 1956) and there were again no cases of diphtheria notified.

#### Poliomyelitis.

In April two mild cases were notified, both being small girls aged  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  respectively. They developed slight weakness in a leg but there was no resulting disability of a permanent nature.

In May a case occurred in a male aged 40 years. This unfortunately terminated fatally.

In July an army officer aged 36, residing at Woodside, developed the disease and he was admitted to hospital in Darlington. Treatment was subsequently continued at a convalescent home away from this area.

A mild case occurred in Barnard Castle Preparatory School in December, the patient being a boy aged 10 years. He was admitted to hospital in Darlington but he did not develop signs of paralysis.

#### Poliomyelitis Vaccination Scheme.

In the early summer, the Government announced that a new poliomyelitis vaccine similar to the Salk vaccine in America, would be made available to children in this country. Only small amounts of this vaccine were made available and it was decided that parents of children born within the years 1947 and 1954 should be asked to sign a form of consent to these inoculations.

In May and June a small proportion of the children whose parents had signed the form were given inoculations but in the Urban district of Barnard Castle, owing to the recent occurrence of cases of poliomyelitis it was decided to postpone the inoculations until the following year.

### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning) during the year 1956.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Diagnosis not Confirmed</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia	2	-	-	2
Measles	105	-	-	105
Whooping Cough	44	-	-	44
Poliomyelitis - paralytic	4	3	-	4

Analysis of the Total Cases (confirmed) in age groups.

	Under one Year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Measles	4	26	23	52	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	8	13	15	3	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	1	1	-	2	-	-

Notifiable Diseases (confirmed) during recent years.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Scarlet Fever	2	1	5	4	5	2	1	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	2	147	27	-	117	4	37	105
Whooping Cough	5	45	4	9	23	-	3	44
Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	4
Acute Primary Pneumonia	2	1	3	5	3	1	2	2
Erysipelas	-	2	2	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-

Diphtheria Immunisation.

There was an improvement in the number of children who were given a primary course of immunisation. According to the records received at the County Health Department 41 children were immunised compared with 19 last year, 54 in 1954 and 56 in 1953.

Responsibility for the provision of facilities for immunisation and for the maintenance of propaganda now rests with the County Health Department. Facilities are provided at the child welfare centre for the immunisation of children under five and by private practitioners for children of any age.

Leaflets drawing attention to the need for immunisation are distributed by post at the age of eight months and twelve months, and to encourage re-inforcing doses, at the age of four years nine months. The County Health Visitor visits children who have not been immunised.

In addition, advice and reminders are given to parents by the School Medical Officer at the annual medical inspection of schools.

Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the  
year ended 31st December, 1956.

Number of children who completed a course of primary immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

Age at date of Final injection		Total Under
0 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	15
39	2	41

Number given re-inforcing injections during the year

24.

Tuberculosis

One case of tuberculosis (other forms) was notified during the year. The patient was a female aged 23 years.

Deaths. - No deaths from Tuberculosis occurred during the year.



## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Staff. - The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer. A grant is made towards his salary by the Ministry of Health.

The Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector are whole-time Officers. Part of their salaries are paid by the Urban District Council and part by the Ministries of Health and Transport.

A County Health Visitor resides in the town, and part of her time is allocated to the duties of County School Nurse.

Hospitals. - There are no special hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity cases or Children, in the area.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, control of the Infectious Disease Hospitals formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, was taken over by the South West Durham Hospital Management Committee. Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of these hospitals.

The Richardson Memorial Convalescent Home, which was taken over during the war under the Emergency Medical Services Hospitals Scheme, is now used as a Convalescent Holiday Home for patients from hospitals in the County of Durham, North Riding of Yorkshire and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ambulance Facilities. - I am indebted to the County Medical Officer's Ambulance Department, Durham, for the following statements relating to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year.

T A B L E   A.

	Bishop Auckland No. 14 Control Area.	Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts.
Ambulance Controls	1	Nil
Clerk-telephonists	4	Nil
Ambulance Depots	5	2
Ambulances	15	2
Sitting Case Cars	1	Nil
Driver-Attendants	42	4

\* Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts form part of this Control Area, the column adjoining showing the depots etc., actually situated within the districts. The whole of the facilities provided in the Control Area are available to the districts. The Ambulance Control is situated at Bishop Auckland and is staffed by 4 clerk-telephonists who maintain a 24-hour service.

T A B L E   B.

Summary of work done during 1956 by vehicles stationed  
in Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts.

Journeys	Cases Carried			Mileage
	Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
1097	681	4265	4946	60467

Note: In addition to the above, patients residing in the urban and rural districts are also conveyed by vehicles from neighbouring depots within the Control Area and by the Darlington Ambulance Service, as occasion demands. Records are not maintained in sanitary district order and information regarding these cases cannot be conveniently supplied.

During the year a system of radio control was introduced into the Service. For the present only a proportion of the fleet is equipped with mobile sets, and one of these is operating on a vehicle at Barnard Castle Depot.



### Nursing Arrangements.

Home Nursing. - Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of the Local Health Authorities as from the 5th July, 1948. The agreement concluded with the Durham County Nursing Association, whereby the Durham County Council delegated this aspect of their functions to the Association, ceased to exist on 1st April, 1954, and the County Council took over direct administration from this date.

Direct control was also assumed by the County Council of the arrangements made for the provision of a domiciliary midwife service.

Both services are now available free of charge.

Services are provided for this area by two District Nurse Midwives resident in the town.

Miss L. H. Dodd,  
15, Harmire Road,  
Barnard Castle.

Telephone No.  
Barnard Castle 2149.

Mrs. M. L. Morton,  
3, Harmire Road,  
Barnard Castle.

Telephone No.  
Barnard Castle 3156.

### MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

No. of Midwifery and Maternity Cases	54
No. of Hospital patients discharged before the 14th day	8

### HOME NURSING SERVICE.

<u>Cases</u>	<u>Patients</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Medical	61	1,681
Surgical	17	300
Tuberculosis	1	40
Total	79	2,021

No. of cases included in  
the above total who were  
65 years of age or over 39 1,294

No. of cases included in  
the above total who were  
under 25 years of age 7 44

There is a small Nursing Home at 32, Bede Road (Proprietress - Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N., S.C.M.) chiefly for maternity cases.

### CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Infant Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic are held on alternate weeks at the Trinity Methodist Schoolroom, Barnard Castle, under the administration of the County Council.

Area Health Sub-Committee. - The Committee, of which three members of the Council are members, met on four occasions during the year and the County Medical Officer's reports were considered.

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. F. L. White, and to Mr. E. Dixon, Public Health Inspector, for their assistance in compiling this report.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your Obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

